

passed away at the age of 85. Jim was a pillar of the Hayden, Colorado community, and as his family mourns their loss, I think it is appropriate that we remember Jim's life and celebrate his contributions to our nation today.

Jim, a native Coloradan, grew up in various towns in the mountains of the West. He lived in Steamboat Springs, Hayden, and McCoy. Following high school, Jim answered his country's call to duty and served in the United States Army for four years. In 1947, Jim married Avis Hooker, his wife of 56 years.

Throughout his life, Jim was active in numerous community groups, including the Farm Bureau, the Upper Yampa River Water Conservancy Board, the Hayden School Board, and the Routt County Planning Commission. He was a member and former Commander of the Hayden American Legion Post and a member of the Hayden Congregational Church. In addition, Jim was instrumental in organizing the West Routt Fire Protection District. Despite his busy schedule, Jim managed to be a loving father, husband and friend.

Mr. Speaker, James Funk's dedication and selflessness certainly deserve the recognition of this body of Congress. It is my privilege to pay tribute to him for his contributions to the community of Hayden and our nation. I would like to extend my thoughts and deepest sympathies to Jim's family and friends during this difficult time of bereavement.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6, ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6.

We have pushed for and promised a new national energy policy for a decade, and it is time we deliver on that promise; a promise that tells our families they won't be left out in the cold due to skyrocketing home-heating bills, a promise that tells the American worker that an unstable and unaffordable energy supply won't force employers to reduce benefits or eliminate jobs, and a promise that tells our children that they will be able to live and grow in a clean, healthy environment.

It is on that last point, encouraging the development of environmentally friendly energy, that I rise today. Transportation accounts for more than 75 percent of total oil consumption in the United States. Accelerating the use of fuel-efficient technologies and cleaner burning fuels by the auto industry will have a profound impact on safeguarding our health and our environment.

The high costs of new technologies, however, have stalled progress in the past. And, as California's experiment with electric engines quotas proved, top-down, government-driven reforms do not work. We cannot expect results if the expectations and demands of consumers are not met. This energy bill puts consumers in the driver's seat for developing technology, and will create a sustainable effort to improve fuel efficiency and reduce pollution.

By providing tax credits directly to consumers, this bill will help offset the thousands

of dollars added to the ticket price of a hybrid or alternative fuel vehicle. Without these incentives, up to \$3,400 for the purchase of a hybrid vehicle and up to \$8,000 for a fuel cell vehicle, we will not change the status quo.

The energy bill compromise is not only fair and balanced; it is a major step forward for our country. By providing a more stable, affordable supply of energy, it will protect and create hundreds of thousands of jobs, save families money, and reduce pollution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall vote 634, the Captive Wildlife Safety Act (H.R. 1006); rollcall vote 635, Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the importance of motorsports (H. Con. Res. 320); rollcall vote 636, National Museum of African-American History and Culture Act (H.R. 3491); rollcall 637, Berkley Motion to Instruct Conferees; rollcall 638, Mutual Fund Integrity and Fee Transparency Act (H.R. 2420); rollcall 640, Honoring the victims of the Cambodian genocide (H. Con. Res. 83); rollcall 641, Honoring the Seeds of Peace (H. Con. Res. 288); rollcall 642, Commending Afghan Women (H. Res. 393); rollcall 643, Recognizing the Fifth Anniversary of the signing of the International Religious Freedom Act (H. Res. 423); and rollcall 644, Fairness to Contact Lens Consumer Act (H.R. 3140).

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" for rollcall votes 634, 635, 636, 638, 640, 641, 642, 643, and 644. I would also vote "nay" for rollcall vote 637.

UNITED KINGDOM FREE TRADE AGREEMENT RESOLUTION

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the President of the United States should enter into a free trade agreement (FTA) with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The United States and the United Kingdom share one of the closest and most unique cultural, economic, strategic relationships of any two countries in history. Our nations are based on the rule of law. We share a common history, language, and love of freedom and liberty. Our military alliance liberated Europe from Adolf Hitler and removed Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq. The entrepreneurial spirit of Americans and Britons is evident in the economic power our countries have exerted for over two hundred years.

I believe that it is no accident that two of the most freedom-loving countries on earth have also been the most economically successful countries. The independence and liberties Americans and Britons enjoy politically have

transferred themselves to an economic freedom to invent, innovate, and trade.

Unfortunately, that freedom to trade is often hindered by barriers and tariffs. Some barriers give unfair advantage to goods through artificially lower prices. Other barriers try to protect domestic industries, sometimes delaying much needed innovation.

Countries that open their domestic markets, remove barriers to foreign direct investment, and promote free enterprise improve the lives of their citizens. The US and the UK should encourage open markets because limiting the availability of goods or increasing the final price paid by consumers can directly inhibit consumer freedom and reduce consumer welfare.

As the largest economy in the world, the United States should lead the movement for free trade because free trade boosts our economy. An International Trade Commission report estimates that the elimination of tariffs between the United States and the United Kingdom would result in an 11 percent to 16 percent increase in American exports to the United Kingdom.

The economic relationship between the US and UK is one of the largest trading relationships in the world. Direct foreign investment flowing between our countries totals nearly \$400 billion—the largest such relationship in the world. British investment in the United States helps to sustain over 1 million American jobs.

In my home state of Indiana, there are 141 British companies doing business, including Rolls Royce and Smith Industries. These companies provide 36,000 Hoosiers with jobs. Furthermore, major Indiana companies such as Eli Lilly, Great Lakes Chemical, Biomet, and Lincoln National Corporation have substantial interests in Great Britain.

In the past few years the United States negotiated or is negotiating FTAs with a number of countries. Yet, the United Kingdom is not one of those countries. Given the depth of our relationship and that exports could increase 11 percent to 16 percent, it seems natural for Americans to push for this FTA. Increasing trade will help workers in Indiana and throughout the United States.

Furthermore, as the European Union continues to tighten its control over member states, the days when the United Kingdom is free to set its own trade policy and negotiate its own trade agreements may be numbered. A proposed EU constitution will potentially put more power in the hands of bureaucrats in Brussels rather than London.

Also, given the recent anti-American sentiment running through much of continental Europe, it is highly probable that those in control of the EU will use the organization to stymie US economic interests. The United States must take this opportunity to protect its trade with Great Britain and to help Great Britain protect its right to trade with whomever it wants, however it wants.

In an amendment offered by Senator MITCH MCCONNELL of Kentucky to its Fiscal Year 2004 budget resolution, the United States Senate expressed its support for an FTA with the United Kingdom (S. Con. Res. 23). It is time the House of Representatives expresses its support too.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO EDGAR
STOPHER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the life of Edgar Stopher who passed away recently at the age of 93. Edgar was a pillar of our Colorado community, and as his family mourns their loss, I think it is appropriate that we remember his life and celebrate his contributions to our nation today.

Edgar was born in Loveland, Colorado in 1909. After his graduation from high school in 1929, Edgar continued his education at the University of Colorado, where he earned a bachelors degree in 1932. During World War II, Edgar answered his country's call to duty and served in the United States Air Force. By war's end Edgar had achieved the rank of Major and was awarded numerous decorations.

Following the War, Edgar moved to Estes Park, where he became the General Manager of the Stanley Hotel. In 1970, he joined the Sheraton Corporation as General Manager of the French Lick Springs Hotel in Indiana. Edgar's position with the Sheraton ultimately led to his relocation to Steamboat Springs, where he became the manager of the Sheraton Hotel there. He retired from that position in 1985.

Edgar was active in volunteer work in every Colorado community in which he lived. He was a member of the Chamber of Commerce, President of the Board of Education and also gave his time to the Masonic Lodge.

Mr. Speaker, Edgar Stopher's dedication and selflessness certainly deserve the recognition of this body of Congress. It is my privilege to pay tribute to him for his contributions to the State of Colorado and our nation. I would like to extend my thoughts and deepest sympathies to Edgar's family and friends during this difficult time.

TEXAS TROOPS IN IRAQ

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the brave men and women of our Armed Forces and especially to honor those who have bravely fought and given their lives in Iraq.

Texans have a long history of serving in our military, and the same holds true today in Iraq.

There have been more men and women from Texas who have given their lives in Iraq, than from any other State other than California.

Since the U.S. launched its first airstrike in Iraq, 273 Americans have been killed in hostile action; 158 of those deaths coming after the President declared major combat to be over on March 1.

As of Friday, the Defense Department knew of 34 Texans who had been killed serving their country in Iraq.

Our hearts go out to the family members of these individuals who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country:

Sgt. Edward Anguiano, 24, of Los Fresnos, was killed in action on March 23;

Chief Warrant Officer Andrew Arnold, 30, of Spring, was killed in action on March 22; Spc. Richard Arriaga, 20, of Ganado, was killed in an action on September 18;

Sgt. Michael Barrera, 26, of Von Ormy, was killed in action on October 28;

Staff Sgt. Gary Collins, 32, of Hardin, was killed in action on November 8;

Capt. Eric Das, 30, of Amarillo, was killed in action on April 7;

Pvt. Ruben Estrella-Soto, 18, of El Paso, was killed in action on March 23;

Master Sgt. George Fernandez, 36, of El Paso, was killed in action on April 2;

Pvt. Robert Frantz, 19, of San Antonio, was killed in action on June 17;

Spc. Rodrigo Gonzalez-Garza, 26, of Texas, was killed in action on February 25;

Pfc. Analaura Esparza-Gutierrez, 21, of Houston, was killed in action on October 1;

Chief Warrant Officer Second Class Scott Jamar, 32, of Granbury, was killed in action on April 2;

Staff Sgt. Phillip Jordan, 42, of Brazoria, was killed in action on March 23;

Cpl. Brian Kennedy, 25, of Houston, was killed in action on March 21;

Spc. James Kiehl, 22, of Comfort, was killed in action on March 23;

Chief Warrant Officer Johnny Mata, 35, of Amarillo, was killed in action on March 23;

Cpl. Jesus Medellin, 21, of Fort Worth, was killed in action on April 7;

Sgt. Daniel Methvin, 22, of Belton, was killed in action on July 26;

Pfc. Anthony Miller, 19, of San Antonio, was killed in action on April 7;

Sgt. Keelan Moss, 23, of Houston, was killed in action on November 2;

Spc. Joseph Norquist, 26, of San Antonio, was killed in action on October 9;

Staff Sgt. Hector Perez, 40, of Corpus Christi, was killed in action on July 24;

Second Lt. Jonathan Rozier, 25, of Katy, was killed in action on July 19;

Cpl. Tomas Sotelo, Jr., 20, of Houston, was killed in action on June 27;

Spc. James Wright, 27, of Morgan, was killed in action on September 18;

Pfc. Stephen Wyatt, 19, of Kilgore, was killed in action on October 13;

Pfc. Chad Bales, 20, of Coahoma, died on April 3.

Spc. Zeferino Colunga, 20, of Bellville, died on August 6.

1st Sgt. Joe Garza, 43, of Robstown, died on April 28.

Spc. John Johnson, 24, of Houston, died on October 22.

Spc. Christian Schulz, 20, of Colleyville, died on July 11.

Spc. Joseph Suell, 24, of Lufkin, died on June 16.

Sgt. Melissa Valles, 26, of Eagle Pass, died on July 9.

Sgt. Henry Ybarra, 32, of Austin, died on September 11.

These men and women gave their lives defending their country and fighting to liberate a country that has never experienced freedom.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of these individuals.

They served their country bravely, and they will forever be remembered as heroes.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WILSON-
TOWNS HEPATITIS C EPIDEMIC
CONTROL AND PREVENTION ACT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to join me in support of

the Wilson-Towns Hepatitis C Epidemic Control and Prevention Act, which I have introduced today with Representative WILSON of New Mexico.

The virus which causes Hepatitis C was first identified in 1989. Currently, about 4 million people in the United States are believed to have the Hepatitis C virus. However, exact figures are not available because of the stealthy nature of this virus. Often called the "silent epidemic," people infected with the Hepatitis C virus can be virtually symptom-free for decades before realizing that life-threatening damage has occurred. Unfortunately, to date, there is no vaccine to prevent this disease.

When this virus first appeared, it was believed that only intravenous drug users were at risk. However, today we know that this disease is no respecter of persons. People from all walks of life have become victims of this virus. Our young people are particularly at risk because tattoos and body piercings have become the fastest growing mode of transmission for Hepatitis C. Many young people are unwittingly putting themselves at risk for contracting this disease. We must provide them with information which will enable them to make informed decisions about this risk.

Mr. Speaker, this bipartisan effort, which is modeled after a bill introduced on the Senate side by Senators KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON of Texas and EDWARD KENNEDY of Massachusetts, will direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish, promote and support a comprehensive prevention, research and medical management referral program for persons suffering from the Hepatitis C virus. If passed, this bill will represent the first federal effort to provide a strategic approach to combat this disease.

Mr. Speaker, this disease has affected almost 2 percent of the population of this country. We must take concrete action now before many more are needlessly subjected to this virus. Let us not miss this opportunity to avert this potential public health threat. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

CONGRATULATIONS, DR. ANDREW
BELSER

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Andrew Belser of Juniata College on receiving the prestigious Pennsylvania Professor of the Year award and to thank him for the dedication and guidance with which he has provided his students.

Since 1981, the United States Professors of the Year program has rewarded outstanding professors for their invaluable work. It is the only national program to recognize college and university professors for their teaching skills, and thus, this award is a testament to Dr. Belser's commitment to his students and the dedication to teaching upon which he prides himself.

Since 1997, Dr. Belser has inspired and directed Juniata College students to study and perform to the best of their abilities. He teaches the importance of maintaining tremendous discipline, technique and skill while making theater, which is a valuable lesson that will influence and guide these students in every endeavor. An experience in the arts, such as the